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Comments: I am a recreational climber and have enjoyed climbing in various places around the U.S. I have climbed in Nevada, Colorado, Pennsylvania, and New Hampshire. I very much enjoy climbing as a recreational sport. It provides both a mental and physical challenge that I partake in to clear the mind and push the body. I also partake in it as a way to enjoy nature and see sights that are unique and spectacular. I view it as a recreational activity that should be available to all comers as no one activity suits everyone's tastes. For this reason it is imperative that climbing routes already established remain available and safe for those who choose climbing as their recreation. To this end, I ask that you seriously consider the following points when deciding policy on fixed anchors and fixed equipment on climbing routes both established and yet to be established.

Fixed anchors are an essential piece of climbers' safety system and are not prohibited "installations" under the Wilderness Act. Following existing climbing policies that allow judicious use of fixed anchors for more than a half century will do more to protect Wilderness character while providing for primitive and unconfined Wilderness climbing.

It is unreasonable for federal agencies to create new guidance policies prohibiting Wilderness climbing anchors across the country when they have allowed, managed, and authorized fixed anchors for decades.

Prohibiting fixed anchors will create safety issues by imposing unnecessary obstacles to the regular maintenance of fixed anchors, a responsibility undertaken by the climbing community in a way that is sensitive to the climbing area and with care to the natural landscape. Critical safety decisions often must be made in the moment and any authorization process should not impede those decisions. Fixed anchor maintenance needs to be managed in a way that incentivizes safe anchor replacement and does not risk the removal of climbing routes.

Prohibiting fixed anchors obstructs appropriate exploration of Wilderness areas. Land managers need to allow climbers to explore Wilderness in a way that permits in-the-moment decisions that are necessary when navigating complex vertical terrain.

Prohibiting fixed anchors will threaten America's rich climbing legacy and could erase some of the world's greatest climbing achievements. Climbing management policy needs to protect existing routes from removal.

Restricting the establishment of new routes to "existing climbing opportunities" on non-Wilderness lands is unenforceable and will create confusion amongst land managers and climbers. Non-Wilderness climbing management policy should maintain opportunities for new anchors unless and until analyses determine climbing should be restricted to protect cultural and natural resources.

Thank you for your thoughtful and thorough consideration of these points in enacting policy regarding fixed anchors and fixed equipment on climbing routes.